

The Library Assistant:

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ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The Seventh Joint Meeting of the present Session will be held on **Wednesday, 12th April**, at **No. 4, Southampton Row**, in the rooms of the Polyglot Club.

Mr. F. H. Skrine, F.R.Hist.S., will preside, and an address entitled "**OBSERVATIONS ON SOME BOOKS RELATING TO THE EUROPEAN WAR,**" will be delivered by **Mr. George Young**, Secretary of the War Book Club.

The meeting will commence at 7.30 p.m., prior to which light refreshments will be served. There will also be the usual exhibition of Best Books of the Month, and Mr. Young will display a selection of the books with which he will deal. The rooms of the Polyglot Club are in the building of the Baptist Church Union, which is situated almost opposite the Holborn Restaurant, and easily reached by omnibus, tram and tube from all parts. The attendance lately at the meetings has been extremely poor, and it is hoped that on this occasion, when everything is being done to ensure the success of the event, members will make an effort to be present. The address, too, will be of considerable professional interest, as Mr. Young has had many facilities for studying the literary output relating to the War, and it is a subject on which librarians cannot be too well advised.

EDITORIAL.

Congratulations.—We heartily congratulate our Honorary Secretary, Mr. W. Benson Thorne, upon his appointment to a seat on the Education Committee of the Library Association. Although we understand that he has not been appointed as an official representative of our Association, we feel confident that the interests of library assistants will be quite safe in Mr. Thorne's hands. We also congratulate Miss M. Day, of the Islington Public Libraries, upon her election to the Council of the L.A.A. Taken as a whole, there are not many library staffs that have done more for librarianship than the Islington staff,

and we have good reason to hope that it will be Miss Day's best endeavour to maintain this standard of usefulness by her services on our Council.

Our Journal.—It is with much regret that we have to announce a temporary reduction in the size of the *Library Assistant* by four pages. The rapidly increasing cost of paper, combined with the reduced sums received in annual subscriptions consequent upon the enlistment of so many of our members—who have become honorary members—are the causes of this decrease, which, we sincerely trust, will not be for long. We appeal to every library assistant to do his or her utmost to shorten this period by joining our ranks themselves, and by enlisting their colleagues who have hitherto remained outside.

PROGRESS OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY MOVEMENT ON THE SOUTH COAST.*

By BERYL GILL.

The title of my paper has been announced as "The Progress of the Public Library Movement on the South Coast," but it is more especially the libraries and the library movement within the radius of the South Coast Branch to which I shall limit my remarks.

Many of the facts I shall mention will obviously be well-known to those who represent the various Sussex libraries, and I can only express the hope that there may be some here who will not be wearied by hearing well-known details repeated of the history and work of their neighbouring libraries.

In the South of England the Public Library movement has been of slower growth than in the great industrial centres, or in the northern counties. This may largely be accounted for by the pastoral pursuits of the people of the south, where the population is scattered and the towns small.

In the larger Surrey towns, with perhaps the exception of such towns as Croydon and Kingston, public libraries are very rare. Even Guildford, the historic county town, is without a municipal library. Turning to Hampshire and Sussex we find that with the exception of Winchester and Lewes, public libraries are only to be found in the larger pleasure resorts of the coast. Towns of importance and note such as Farnham, Basingstoke, Horsham, East Grinstead, Chichester, and Tunbridge Wells are still without public libraries. The largest and most important library of the South Coast, and one of the best known in the

* Read before a meeting of the South Coast Branch of the Library Assistants' Association, Worthing, April 21st, 1915.

kingdom, is that of Brighton. It was the first to be established in Sussex, and is unique inasmuch as the three departments—Public Library, Museum, and Art Galleries are under the control of one Chief, Mr. H. D. Roberts, who acts as the Director of the whole establishment.

Brighton does not come under the Public Libraries or Museums Acts, but is supported by a local act dating from 1850 which allows a sum not exceeding 4d. in the £ to be spent on the upkeep of the Pavilion Estate. It was decided in 1876 that the Public Library, Museum, and Art Galleries should be considered part of the Pavilion Estate, and by a further order the Booth Museum was also allowed to come under the same heading. As the Pavilion itself pays its way by being let for concerts, etc., the result is that a very large sum of money can be spent on the library buildings if necessary, although it rarely exceeds 2d. in the £.

The library first existed in a small way at the Pavilion, where the Committee had before it the question of providing rooms for the housing of certain copies of specifications of patents, and in 1861 it was decided to call a meeting of the burgesses concerning the adoption of the Public Libraries Acts.

This movement failed to obtain the desired effect, and it was not until some years later that any further attempt was made. During this time 7,000 volumes of the Library of the Royal Literary and Scientific Institution were presented to the Corporation by the Proprietary on condition that they were kept free for public use. This collection and the Library of the late Rev. H. V. Elliott, with 1,300 vols. presented by Mr. W. J. Smith, formed the basis of the existing library.

About this time the space available at the Pavilion was found to be too small for practical use and plans for a new building in Church Street were submitted and eventually put into practice. In 1873 the work was finished, and the building opened by the Mayor as Library, Picture Gallery, and Museum. In the same year Mr. Henry Willett presented a collection of books belonging to the late Richard Cobden, which is now known as the Cobden Collection. In 1876 a donation of nearly four hundred volumes was received from the late Mr. Halliwell-Phillipps, and two years later the idea of a lending department was first put forward. Nothing could be done in this direction, however, until a separate room was set aside in the Pavilion for the use of the chess players, who were at that time using the only room available.

It is interesting to note at this juncture that since the outbreak of the Great War in 1914 the Pavilion has been converted into a hospital for Indian soldiers, and the chess players are

necessarily again without an apartment. For the present, however, it appears that space has been set apart in the Reference Library for their use, and it is here that they may now be seen pursuing their old and stately pastime.

In 1889 the Victoria Lending Library was opened by the Mayor, Alderman Sendall, and Mr. F. Madden was appointed Librarian, being the first person to hold the office apart from Curator of the Museum. The Library at this time contained 29,776 volumes, 12,231 of which were in the Reference Department.

The new Lending Department continued to be a great success and it was not long before the accommodation again became insufficient. Owing to the large amount of money needed to make the necessary alterations nothing was done for some years, but in 1902 the present block of buildings was opened to the public and Mr. John Minto appointed librarian. The stock account for 1914 shows the number of books in the lending department to be 42,227, and in the Reference Library to be 39,829.

All the books are classified according to the Dewey Decimal system of classification, and the catalogues provided are classified with author and subject indexes. The Lending Library is open from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., and is divided into two sections, fiction and non-fiction. The fiction books were at one time issued by means of an adapted Cotgreave Indicator, but are now free of access to borrowers, all charging being done by cards.

The Reference Library is one of the few in the Kingdom that is open to the public on Sundays. The hours of opening are from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. week-days, and from 2.30 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sundays. The first Sunday it was opened was March 9th, 1913. Such members of the staff as are willing are employed once in every two months as Sunday Assistants. It is found impossible owing to lack of accommodation, to make the Reference Room entirely open access, but there is a section of ready reference books which may be used without application being made for them. In this room are also housed the Library of the Brighton and Hove Association of Pharmacy, and a collection of photographs, lantern slides, etc., belonging to the Photographic Record and Survey of Sussex, both of which are available for reference by the general public.

The local collection is an extremely fine one, dealing with the entire county of Sussex, and other special collections are the "George Long" Classical Collection and the Halliwell-Phillipps Collection.

The library bindery, in which most of the binding and repairing of books is done was originally established in 1875,

and is now managed by a binder and two sewers.

As far back as 1856 mention was made of a Public Library and Museums Committee, although it was not until 1858 that certain rooms in the north wing of the Pavilion were made ready for the purposes of a temporary museum and library. Later, in 1860, the Royal Literary and Scientific Institution transferred all their objects to the Pavilion for public use, and Mr. Henry Willett presented his collection of chalk fossils.

The Pavilion Museum soon became too small for further use, and the new building was erected. This again proved insufficient, and additional rooms were secured at the Pavilion, where in 1877 Archdeacon Gray's collection of Chinese objects was displayed.

The Booth Museum of British Birds, which is one of the finest in the country, was bequeathed to the town in 1890, after having been declined by the British Museum Authorities, who could not fulfil Mr. Booth's conditions.

The history of the Art Galleries dates back to 1851, when a number of Brighton artists undertook to arrange annual exhibitions of paintings at the Pavilion. The sum of one shilling was charged for admission, and after paying expenses the remainder was devoted to buying pictures for the town. In 1871 the picture gallery in Church Street was opened, and in 1902 the three exhibition galleries were opened by a loan exhibition that was insured for £100,000. Since then a number of very fine exhibition has been held; among the most important and recent may be mentioned the Exhibition of Modern Swedish Art, 1911, Modern Danish Art, 1912, Modern Norwegian Art, 1913, and Modern Spanish Art, 1914. Every year from April to September a wild flower exhibition is held, which is greatly admired and appreciated by the public.

The next town in the district to adopt the Public Libraries Acts was Portsmouth. The Acts were adopted in 1876, but the Central Library was not opened until 1883. The new Central Library in the Technical Institute was opened in 1908. The methods used are the Indicator system with key, and card-charging, and the classification is Fletcher's with fixed location.

There are three branch libraries at Portsmouth, the first being opened in 1893 at Southsea, the second in 1896 at Landport, and the third in 1906 at Fratton. The funds for the latter branch were supplied by Dr. Andrew Carnegie, and the building is known as the Carnegie Library.

The Central Department possesses a collection of books dealing with the County of Hampshire. All book-binding is done on the premises—Portsmouth being one of the few towns that have established a library bindery.

At Hastings, the Corporation Reference Library does not come under the Public Libraries Acts, but was founded in 1881 through the beneficence of Lord Brassey, who presented the building now known as the Brassey Institute.

Admission to the library was originally by free tickets, which were granted to suitable persons over the age of eighteen. These tickets were available for three months only, but could at the end of that time be renewed on application being made to the librarian.

The stock of books, numbering about 6,000, was supplied at the expense of Lord Brassey, and consisted mainly of non-fiction works, and the works of such novelists as Scott, Dickens, Bronte, and Eliot.

Previous to 1894 an attempt was made to adopt the Acts, but although meetings were called and the vote taken, the majority of the people were against such a procedure, and the opposing party held a banquet, whereat they congratulated themselves on the fact of having saved the town an extra $\frac{1}{2}$ d. in the £ rate for library purposes.

One reason given for the non-establishment of a complete public library was that the Reference Department already in existence was not used to the extent that had been expected. When it is considered, however, that there were none of the attractions of news-rooms and lending department, and the books available were decidedly not of the light fiction type, added to the fact that the library was open on the average only $6\frac{1}{2}$ hours daily, some excuse may be made for the slight interest secured from the townsfolk generally. A system was introduced about two years ago whereby students are allowed to take home certain volumes other than fiction and books of local interest. This has proved entirely successful, and has been a great boon to students.

Amongst other things of interest at the Brassey Institute is the Library of the Hastings and St. Leonard's Natural History Society.

The Hastings Museum was first formed in 1831, when furnished rooms in Burdett Place, George Street, were rented for the purpose. In 1836, a site was purchased in the same street, and the well-known building erected that was occupied by the Museum until 1895. The present museum was opened in 1892, on the second floor of the Brassey Institute, but the premises soon proved insufficient, and the objects were removed to their present quarters. In 1905 the whole contents of the museum were given over to the Corporation of Hastings.

Hove, the adjoining borough to Brighton, possesses a beautiful library building situated in Church Road, presented by Dr.

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LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

PROFESSIONAL EXAMINATION.

The next Professional Examination will be held on May 8-13th, 1916, at Caxton Hall, Westminster, S.W., and at other Centres in the Provinces and Abroad. May 8th, Classification; 9th, Cataloguing; 10th, Library Organisation; 11th, Library Routine; 12th, Literary History; 13th, Bibliography. Fee, 5s. for each section. Last day of entry, April 9th. Copies of the Syllabus, together with all particulars, can be obtained on application to ERNEST A. BAKER, M.A., D.Lit., Hon. Secretary, Education Committee, Caxton Hall, Westminster, London, S.W.

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

TEMPORARY VACANCIES AND APPOINTMENTS.

As enquiries are frequently addressed to officers of the Library Association by societies and public authorities requiring qualified persons to fill temporary vacancies, the Council have instructed the Hon. Secretary of the Education Committee to tabulate and keep on record for future use the names of persons suitable for such appointments.

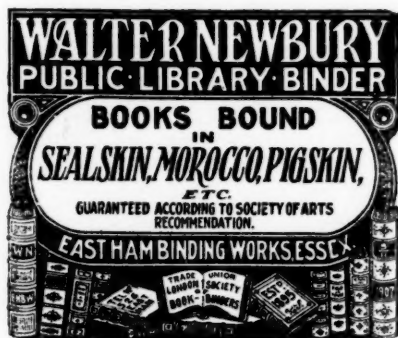
Any person desiring to enter his or her name in this list should send full name, address, age, experience, number of certificates held, and any other useful particulars, to the undersigned.

As all the names that appear suitable will be submitted to any person or body enquiring, without selection, it is important that as soon as applicants are no longer available their names should be withdrawn.

ERNEST A. BAKER, M.A., D.Litt.,

Honorary Secretary of the Education Committee,
Caxton Hall, Westminster, London, S.W.

East Ham Bookbinding Works,



Plashet Lane and Elizabeth Road, East Ham, Essex.

LIBRARY ASSISTANTS' ASSOCIATION SERIES.

- No. 1. The Grammar of Classification. By W. C. BERWICK SAYERS, F.L.A., Chief Librarian of the Croydon Public Libraries. **Price six-pence.**
- No. 2. Libraries in Rural Districts. By HARRY FARR, Chief Librarian of the Cardiff Public Libraries. **Price three-pence.**
- No. 3. The Development of Notation in Classification. By H. RUTHERFORD PURNELL, Librarian of the Public Library of South Australia. Formerly Honorary Editor of "The Library Assistant." **Price three-pence.**
- No. 4. L.A.A. Report on the Hours, Salaries, Training, and Conditions of Service of Assistants in British Municipal Libraries. **Price six-pence.**
- No. 5. Ideals: Old and New. An Address to Young Librarians. By E. WYNDHAM HULME, B.A., Librarian of the Patent Office Library. **Price three-pence.**
- No. 6. The Library Committee: Its Character and Work. By W. C. BERWICK SAYERS, F.L.A., Chief Librarian of the Croydon Public Libraries. **Price three-pence.**
- No. 7. First Steps in Library Routine. By WILLIAM BENSON THORNE, Honorary Secretary of the L.A.A. **Price three-pence.**

To be obtained from the Honorary Secretary, Bromley Library, Brunswick Road, Poplar, E. Postage on Nos. 1-7 one penny each extra.

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ARE YOU HELPING?

The Library Assistants' Association

has done much good work for its Members and for LIBRARIANSHIP GENERALLY in the past. It has stimulated individual effort towards increased efficiency; it has always urged the further development of the Public Library Movement; it has stood for better conditions and has claimed a **STANDING FOR THE PROFESSION**. At the moment the Association is extending its influences and work, and needs the support and co-operation of all who are qualified for Membership; difficult problems lie ahead which can only be faced effectually by a strong Association.

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for your Association? And will you try now? Remember that the L.A.A. was established **TWENTY YEARS AGO**, and holds a recognized position. It is no new venture with its way to make.

Any information you may need will be gladly supplied by the *Hon. Secretary*, **BROMLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY, BRUNSWICK ROAD, POPLAR, LONDON, E.**

Andrew Carnegie, and opened by the Countess of Jersey on July 8th, 1908, but the Libraries Acts were first adopted in 1891. In the latter part of the previous year a meeting of the rate-payers was held at the Ventnor Lecture Hall to promote the objects of a Public Library, and a sub-committee was appointed to consider the matter. In March, 1891, a public meeting was held in the Town Hall to take the vote, and the result was that 1,197 persons were in favour of establishing a Public Library, against 502 who were against the proposal. Premises were secured in Grand Avenue, where the news-room was opened, and in the following year the Lending Library was available for use with a stock of 3,489 volumes.

The Reference Library was opened in 1894, and soon after the accommodation was found to be insufficient. The library was therefore transferred to premises in Third Avenue, where it remained until the present building was ready for use. The indicator system was adopted in 1903, and the "open access" system in 1905.

The new building, one of the most artistic in the country, was erected at a cost of £13,000, and is well arranged throughout, with open access departments. The furniture and fittings are of light oak and are very effective.

The first thing a visitor usually asks to see here is the unique Roof Garden. It is admirably arranged over the Lending Library, and newspaper stands and chairs are provided. Nine newspapers are available for use there, and readers are allowed both to smoke and talk. An arrangement exists between the Library and the Parks Committee, whereby the latter takes charge of the flowers and plants growing in the garden, and charges the cost to the library account.

One room in the building has been set aside for the housing of a valuable gift, namely the Henriques Library, which was bequeathed to the town in 1908. Alderman A. G. Henriques was a former Chairman of the Library Committee. This collection comprises about 3,000 volumes, which were originally intended for reference only.

Not being suitable for this purpose, however, the Committee decided in 1911 to lend the greater number of books for home reading. The venture proved to be a great success, the issue increasing about three-fold.

The appearance of the room has now been greatly improved by the replacing of the temporary shelving by open access fittings, which are in accordance with the other parts of the Library.

Other interesting collections of books that may be seen at Hove are the local collection, and the collection of books for

the blind in Braille Type. This latter is supplemented by a catalogue in the same type, which naturally makes the books of more interest to blind readers. The issue of these books fluctuates a good deal—the number issued during 1914 being 46, rather less than the preceding year.

Exhibitions are arranged each year in the Henriques Room, and an Exhibition of Holiday Literature is also held during the summer months. Adjoining the Reference Library is the Museum, which is noted for its valuable collection of armour.

Following our chronological order, Worthing was the next library to be established in the county. The Acts were adopted here in 1892, but it was not until four years later that a small library, consisting of a lending department only, was established in a building known as the old Commissioner's Room in Rowland's Road.

Eighteen months later, the library was removed to Richmond House in Chapel Road, where temporary premises were secured for it, but the building soon proved inadequate to the growth of the town, and in 1902, in answer to an appeal made by the librarian, Dr. Andrew Carnegie presented a sum of £5,000 for the purpose of erecting a new building upon the same site. While the present building was in course of erection, the books were transferred to premises in Bedford Row.

When the library was first opened books were issued by the old ledger system, and afterwards the Cotgreave Indicator was used, but when arrangements were being made for the new library all departments were planned with a view to all the work being carried on under open access methods.

The handsome Georgian Building in which the Library is now housed was opened to the public by Sir Henry Aubrey Fletcher in 1908—in the following year Dr. Andrew Carnegie visited the Library and expressed his approval with the structure. On that day he was made a Freeman of the Borough. The day following he sent a further donation of some £700 to pay entirely for the library portion of the building.

All the books are classified under the Dewey Decimal System, and the card charging method is similar to that used at the Islington Libraries.

The Reference Library, with the exception of the Sussex Collection, is entirely open access, the only check on readers being the signature book, which must be signed upon entering the room. The stock of books in the Reference Library is about 4,500, and in the Lending Department over 13,000. Nearly 6,000 borrowers are on the library register. The age limit for children is twelve years. A special case of books suitable for

juvenile reading is set apart for the children in the lending department.

Every year a series of extension lectures and classes is held in the town, and the travelling library belonging to the University Extension Society is housed in the Reference Room during the weeks that the classes are held.

The Sussex Collection, which is one of the chief things of interest in the Worthing Library, is of comparatively recent growth. It is only since the new premises have been opened that anything like serious effort has been made to form this collection. Originally all books of Sussex interest were placed in a separate case, but for some time past the Collection has increased so much that the space allotted to them in the Reference Library has not been sufficient, and they have been relegated to a spare room on the same floor, formerly used as a Magazine Room. For some time it has been the intention of the Committee to open this room as a Sussex Room, but the funds necessary for the purpose have not been available, and the plan has had to remain in abeyance.

The Committee, however, have plans before them at the present time for the fitting up of this room, and it is hoped that the time is not far distant when a properly equipped Sussex Room will be available for use. The collection consists of nearly 1,000 volumes and pamphlets. Photographs, maps, and prints, etc., of local interest are also collected, and local papers are bound for reference. A new card catalogue of the collection is in course of preparation.

In the Lending Department articles of permanent interest appearing in the various reviews receive the same treatment as books and are classified and catalogued accordingly.

The staff of the library consists entirely of women—the chief librarian and six assistants.

The Museum attached to the building contains a very fine collection of British Birds, and an excellent collection of specimens of Romano-British urns and pottery—found when excavating the site—and flint implements discovered at Cissbury. The Art Gallery usually has a good exhibition of pictures on view both in the permanent and loan collections.

Another South Coast library of interest is that of Eastbourne, a commanding building of red brick and Portland stone situated near the Railway Station. It is known as the Free Library and Technical Institute and contains beside the library and reading rooms, a museum, technical school, gymnasium and a lecture theatre.

A donation in the shape of a geological museum was given

to the town by Mr. Caldecott, of Meads, in 1877, and the question arose as to how it should be maintained and where accommodated. The result was that a meeting was called to bring about the adoption of the Public Libraries Acts, but the motion was rejected owing to opposition of certain booksellers, and the movement was delayed for some twenty-five years. The Library Acts were eventually adopted in 1896, and a library was opened by Mr. Hall Caine in temporary premises at the Old Vestry Hall, which is now demolished.

The library was originally maintained by a rate of a $\frac{1}{2}$ d. in the £, but was increased in 1902 by a farthing, and again increased later to $\frac{3}{4}$ d., at which the rate now stands.

The new building at the junction of Grove Road and Orchard Road was opened in April, 1903, by the Duke of Devonshire, who presented the site, Dr. Andrew Carnegie contributing £10,000 to that part of the building which was to be devoted to library purposes.

Until 1911 the Central Lending Library was conducted on closed principles, the issue of books being made by the Elliot Indicator, but since that time the organization has been altered and open access methods adopted.

It is found that the new system has produced a more frequent use of the non-fiction books in the library, and has altogether been much appreciated by the public. Eastbourne also possesses a collection of books for the blind.

The "Caldecott" Museum attached to the Central Library is extremely interesting, and contains a collection of Romano-British pottery unearthed during recent excavations and presented by the Duke of Devonshire. The specimens are exhibited in a case devoted to local objects, the idea of the Committee being to make the museum as locally representative as possible, an excellent idea which it would be well for other small museums to copy, a small local or county museum being of far more value and interest than a small general museum.

In the county town of Lewes the Public Library movement might be traced back to the early days of the 18th century, when the Rev. Joseph Graves presented his library of over 500 volumes to the town for public use; together with an annual sum of £10 for the hire of rooms and the purchase of new books. Probably the time was not quite ripe for the true appreciation of this gift as the fund somehow became diverted from its object, many of the books were allowed to decay, and the remainder were sold to defray the cost of a fire engine!

In 1862 the Hon. Mrs. Fitzroy erected a building at the foot of School Hill, known as the Fitzroy Memorial Library, in

memory of her husband Admiral Fitzroy, who was for many years the parliamentary representative of the borough. In this building a Public Library was established in 1898 upon the Town Council adopting the acts in commemoration of the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria in 1897. There are about 10,000 books in the library, and there is also a News Room.

Although strictly speaking outside the province of this paper, mention must be made of the fine library of the Sussex Archaeological Society, which, together with the museum of that Society, is housed in the Barbican House at Lewes. The library is, of course, free to all members of the Society, and is a very fine and valuable one. There is a very good catalogue of the collection on cards.

The little town of Cuckfield, near Haywards Heath, with its population of under 5,000, has set an example to some of the larger towns in the county by its adoption of the Acts in 1901; a small library of 2,000 volumes is housed in the Queen's Hall.

Within the last few years a News Room has been added. Only those who know something of the dreariness and monotony of rural life realise what an advantage even a small library like that of Cuckfield must be to inhabitants.

The Public Library building at Littlehampton is a charming one of red brick with stone facings. Dr. Andrew Carnegie subscribed £2,500 towards it, on condition that a site for the purpose was also given to the town. The Duke of Norfolk presented a freehold site to the Urban District Council, and the result was that in 1906 the town adopted the acts and the library was opened in that year.

The library is supported by a 1d. rate, and contains about 3,139 volumes, 3,000 of which are in the lending department. The latter is carried on under closed methods, the books being issued by means of a Cotgreave Indicator.

Although the town is a small one, the population appears to be straggling, for a delivery station has been established in addition to the Central Library.

Last to be mentioned, but by no means of least interest, is the Public Library of Winchester. The library was opened in 1854, the Acts having been adopted in 1851. As you all know the late Chairman of the South Coast Branch of the L.A.A. was recently appointed its Librarian. Since his appointment Mr. Piper has been busy instituting improvements and preparing for the re-opening of the library. The news room has already been opened, and the improvements instituted in this department seem to be much appreciated. The library contains about 10,000 volumes.

PROCEEDINGS.

The March Joint Meeting with the L.A. was held at Caxton Hall, Westminster, on Wednesday, 15th March, 1916, at 7.30 p.m., when about twenty members and friends of the two Associations attended. The minutes of the February meeting having been read and confirmed, the Chairman (Mr. Evan G. Rees) announced that two nominations had been received for the vacancy on the L.A.A. Council, caused by the departure of Miss M. Gilbert to Newark, viz., Miss M. Day, Islington, and Miss M. Marchant, Fulham. A vote having been taken, Miss Day was declared duly elected. The Chairman then called upon Mr. C. C. Fagg to read his paper on "Regional Surveys and the Public Library," which we hope to print in our columns later. Mr. Fagg dealt with the history of regional surveying, and with matters of methodology, such as classification, storage, the need for bibliographical research, etc. Throughout the paper it was evident that the librarian can play a very important part in furthering this important work. The interest of the paper was considerably enhanced by the exhibition of a number of maps and photographs prepared in connection with the Croydon Survey. After a brief discussion, which was contributed to by Messrs. Wharton and Thorne, and replied to by Mr. Fagg, the meeting terminated.

THE WEST OF SCOTLAND ASSOCIATION OF ASSISTANT LIBRARIANS.

The sixth meeting of the first session was held at Langside District Library, Glasgow, on Wednesday, 15th March, 1916. Mr. E. H. Parsons, Librarian at Langside, presided. There was a good attendance of members considering the conditions of weather and street lighting.

Mr. P. E. Blackwell, of Gorbals District Library, read a paper, entitled "The Human Element in the Public Library." He dealt with his subject principally from the administrative point of view. He deprecated the modern tendency to pile system upon system, and mechanical device upon mechanical device until the human element was almost eliminated. Mr. Blackwell said that the Librarian should read, and read widely; he would then be more able to guide readers. The library should be able, provided the books are well chosen, to answer abnormal as well as normal questions. He advocated elasticity in administering the library rules; and that a tactful manner should be one of the chief assets of the librarian and his staff.

The discussion was opened by Mr. Marr Grieve, who raised some interesting points, and was followed by Miss Cochrane, Messrs. Henderson, Parsons and Robertson.

The members afterwards, under the guidance of Mr. Parsons, were shown over the Library, which is one of Glasgow's open access libraries, and the many interesting and up-to-date features were pointed out.

NEW MEMBERS.

Associate: F. J. Boxall (Sion College, London, E.C.).

North-Western Branch: Associates: MISSES G. M. Clark and E. Hogarth, Wm. A. Sparrow (all of Central Lending Library, Bolton).

L.A.A. ROLL OF HONOUR.

Croydon: *RICHARD WRIGHT (Royal Garrison Artillery).

West Ham: *S. W. BURGESS (20th Batt., Welsh Regiment).

* Member, L.A.A.